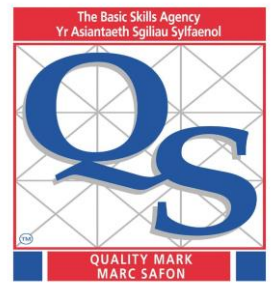


Rhiw Syr Dafydd Primary School
Maesygarth Road,
Oakdale
Blackwood,
Caerphilly
NP 12 ONA
Tel: 01495 222829
rsdpa@caerphilly.gov.uk
www.rhiwsyrdafyddschoo.wales



17th July 2020

Dear Parent / Guardian

I am now in a position to provide some further information regarding the return to school in September 2020. All schools in Wales will hold planning and preparation days on Tuesday 1st and Wednesday 2nd September to allow risk assessments to be put in place following any additional guidance from Welsh Government over the summer. On Thursday 3rd and Friday 4th September current Nursery (Reception September 2020) and Year 2 (Year 3 September 2020) pupils will return to school. The times of these sessions will be as follows:

Nursery (Reception September 2020)

Thursday 3 rd September	-	Mornings: 8:45 – 11:15
		Afternoons: 12:15 – 14:45
Friday 4 th September	-	Mornings: 8:45 – 11:15
		Afternoons: 12:15 – 14:45

We will use part of the time that pupils attend to transition between Nursery and Reception. We very much hope that this will settle pupils back into school and ease them into the new routines for Reception.

Year 2 (Year 3 September 2020)

Thursday 3 rd September	-	9:00am – 12:00pm
Friday 4 th September	-	9:00am – 12:00pm

Pupils should use the pedestrian gates at the entrance to the main car park. Parents should remain outside the school gates. All pupils will require a snack that they can eat at break time in the morning. Staff will be in the car park waiting to receive the pupils. Please be aware that the car park gates will be locked and no parking will be available on the school site.

Week Beginning 7th September 2020

- Nursery - A separate letter has been sent with information for these pupils.
- Reception - A separate letter has been sent with information for these pupils.
- Year 1 - 8:45 to 9:00 – 12:45 (Main playground entrance)

- Year 2 - 8:45 to 9:00 – 13:00 (Main playground entrance)
- Year 3 - 8:55 – 13:30 (Main car park entrance)
- Year 4 - 8:50 – 13:45 (Main car park entrance)
- Year 5 - 8:45 – 14:00 (Main car park entrance)
- Year 6 - 8:40 – 14:15 (Main car park entrance)

Friday 11th September 2020 (Onwards – until further notice)

- Year 1 - 8:45 to 9:00 – 14:50 (Main playground entrance)
- Year 2 - 8:45 to 9:00 – 15:00 (Main playground entrance)
- Year 3 - 8:55 – 14:55 (Main car park entrance)
- Year 4 - 8:50 – 15:00 (Main car park entrance)
- Year 5 - 8:45 – 15:05 (Main car park entrance)
- Year 6 - 8:40 – 15:10 (Main car park entrance)

Foundation Phase pupils (Year 1 & Year 2) should arrive at school between 8:45 and 9:00am and use the main playground gate. Teachers will be on the playground and pupils should walk onto the playground where they will be directed to their classroom.

Junior pupils (Year 3 – 6) should use the pedestrian gates at the entrance to the main car park. Parents should remain outside the school gates. Teachers will be stood in the car park and children should line up in front of their teacher. Parents should not access the school car park.

At the end of the school day, Foundation Phase parents may collect pupils from external classroom doors. Please ensure you maintain social distance at all times. Pupils in Key Stage 2 will leave school through the main car park entrance and will be brought to the gates by class teachers until further notice.

Staggered start and end times to the school day will need to continue for some considerable time.

Throughout September there will be no breakfast club provision at school. This is continuously being reviewed by the local authority. As you will be aware, all pupils must remain in their contact groups and this would not be possible with so many pupils attending the breakfast club provision. In addition, there will be no catering arrangements at lunchtime until further notice. All pupils will need to be provided with a packed lunch which can be eaten in the classroom or outdoors if the weather allows.

Until October half-term, all Physical Education lessons will take place outdoors. The scientific advice informs us that there is less chance of Coronavirus being spread in an outdoor environment and as

children are likely to be hot and sweaty during these lessons it is best that they take place outdoors for the time being.

When we return to school in September I will be unable to hold daily acts of collective worship with the pupils and whole school assemblies will not be possible. I intend to record myself delivering assemblies and will then email this to the class teachers so that it can be played on the Interactive TVs in the classrooms.

The Government advice recommends that all pupils sit facing forward in classrooms. This is far easier to achieve for pupils in Key Stage 2 where they can sit at their tables and face the front of the classroom. In the Foundation Phase this is more challenging although working in pairs will be encouraged over group work. In addition, all classroom windows will need to be open throughout the school day to ensure rooms are ventilated. As far as possible, all pupils will have their own equipment to use.

I am expecting further guidance to be issued by the Welsh Government on Monday and then again later in the summer holiday. I will of course keep you updated should there be new guidance and would encourage you to follow the school Twitter page where updates will be posted. All letters will also be added to the school website.

I would like to end by thanking you all for your patience, support and understanding throughout this challenging time. The kind messages of support you have sent have given all of the staff a real boost. The efforts you have made home educating your children have been fantastic and I have enjoyed seeing many of the activities on Seesaw and Twitter. I know where to look if I need new supply teachers for school!

Yours sincerely,

Mr C George

Headteacher